



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/629,166  | 07/29/2003  | Melf Hansen          | Ruff 13             | 5996             |
| 23474   | 7590        | 10/29/2004           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| FLYNN THIEL BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C.<br>2026 RAMBLING ROAD<br>KALAMAZOO, MI 49008-1699 |             |                      | GUTMAN, HILARY L    |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 3612                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 10/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                           |                                  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No.           | Applicant(s)                     |
|                              | 10/629,166                | HANSEN ET AL. <i>[Signature]</i> |
|                              | Examiner<br>Hilary Gutman | Art Unit<br>3612                 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3,5-11 and 13-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 13-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 and 5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3 and 6-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | . Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.                                   |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### *Response to Amendment*

Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

### *Drawings*

1. The drawings were received on 4/9/04. These drawings are acknowledged by the examiner.
2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the hydraulic system of claim 17 and the pneumatic system of claim 18 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Claim Objections*

3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 1, line 7, "opposing sides" should be "the opposing sides". Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 3612

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by De Gaillard.

De Gaillard (6,568,732) discloses a protective device for a motor vehicle comprising a flat sheet 9 which is movably supported between a compactly rolled-up rest position (Figure 2) and a pulled-out deployed position (Figure 1), the flat sheet 9 being supported over its pull-out path in guideways 8 in opposing sides of the vehicle, wherein two powered drive systems 18, 18 having drive shafts are associated with the flat sheet on the opposing sides thereof, the powered drive systems 18, 18 being connected to one another through a mechanical synchronization gearing assembly 21 comprising an elongated transfer device (such as a motor drive shaft, not shown) to be synchronously driven.

6. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by De Gaillard.

De Gaillard discloses a protective device in a motor vehicle comprising: a flat sheet 9 that is movably supported between a compact, rolled-up rest position and a pulled-out deployed position; a first guideway 8 in a first side of the vehicle and a second guideway 8 in a second opposing side of the vehicle, the first and second guideways 8 for receiving and supporting the flat sheet along its pull-out path; a first strand 18 in the first guideway on the first side of the vehicle secured to the flat sheet; a second strand 18 in the second guideway on the second side of the vehicle secured to the flat sheet; a first driving system (threads on shaft 18) on the first side of the vehicle for moving the first strand; a second driving system (threads on shaft 18) on the

second side of the vehicle for moving the second strand; and a mechanical synchronization assembly 21 ensuring that the first and second driving systems are synchronized.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

7. Claims 13-18 are allowed.
8. Claims 3 and 6-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

*Response to Arguments*

*1,3,5-11, and 13-18*

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims ~~1-18~~ have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

*Conclusion*

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hilary Gutman whose telephone number is 703-305-0496.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 703-308-3102. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1134.

Art Unit: 3612

**12. Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 872-9326, (for formal communications intended for entry)

**or:**

(703) 746-3515, (for informal or draft communications, please clearly label

“PROPOSED” or “DRAFT”).



Hilary Gutman

October 25, 2004